

A

LINEN DRAPER'S

L E T T E R

TO THE

F R I E N D S

O F

I R E L A N D.

DUBLIN, 1778.

Printed in the YEAR, 1778.

LINEN DRAPERS

LETTER

TO THE

FRIENDS

OF

IRELAND.

DUBLIN: 1783.

Printed in the Year 1783.

A LINEN DRAPER'S

L E T T E R

To the FRIENDS of IRELAND.

DUBLIN, 1778.

WHEN I survey the present State of our Linen Manufacture, and the superior Advantages which *that* of Scotland enjoys, I can no longer doubt but that we shall in a few Years see *their* Linen Manufacture prevail, to the total Exclusion of *our's* in the foreign Markets. I think Sir *William Temple* observes, that one *per Cent.* is a sufficient Advantage to turn the Trade of one Country in Favour of Another. What then must be our situation, who have a weight of 12 *per Cent.* to Combat with, which the Manufacture of Scotland enjoys, beyond the Manufacture of Ireland.

The Merchant or Manufacturer who Ships his Linens, for a foreign Market from any port in Scotland, receives an immediate Bounty of three-half-pence *per* Yard, on Linens not exceeding in value 18*d* *per* Yard, amounting to full 12 *per Cent.* on his own Oath, but the Merchant or Manufacturer, who exports his Linens for the foreign Market, from Ireland; doth not receive any Bounty,

Bounty, nor if he sends such Linens to *England* to be reship'd thence for a foreign Market, will he receive any Bounty thereon, while they remain *his* property, that advantage being reserved for the Inhabitants of *Great-Britain*. When the Americans order'd Linens to be Ship'd for their account, by their Correspondents in *Ireland*, and directed the same to be sent to a *British* port to be reship'd from thence to *America*, such Linens (being then considered the property of the *Americans*) were entitled to the Bounty, which Bounty was reduced by Charges of Freight and Insurance from *Ireland* to *Great-Britain*, and by factorage there, from 12 to about 6 *per Cent*. and such was the delay in forwarding the goods by this indirect Conveyance, that the *Americans* scarce thought it worth their while to accept the Bounty under such Conditions, and rather Chose to give their Orders directly to *Great-Britain*.

Thus is the Staple Manufacture of *Ireland* restricted and so far are the conditions intended us by the compact made with *England* in the reign of King William of Glorious Memory in 1698, from being fulfilled to us, that tho' we are directly excluded from any advantage from the Woollen Manufacture, yet we are indirectly excluded from receiving *all the advantage and profit which this Kingdom can be capable of, from the Linen and Hempen Manufactures* as was then promised to this Kingdom; and why are we to be thus Sacrificed to the *Scotch*, is there a Nation on Earth more distressed than we are, or that requires assistance more :

We pay to Government annually about 814,687 00 0

Our National debt amounts to 834,086 19 3

Besides by Tontine during the two last }
Sessions } 440000 00 0

And this Sessions a Loan of

166,000 00 0

And its computed we pay to our
absent Landlords annually

}

600000 00 0

What do the *Scotch* pay to Government or to their absent Landlords? every thing here is taxed to the highest that is taxable, perhaps it would be better for the Revenue if many articles were not taxed so high, and we are borrowing every Sessions, in this time of profound Peace all over *Europe*, whilst our enemies are recovering from the losses they sustain'd during our last Glorious and successful war, what have we to bear up against these incessant drains but our Staple Manufacture for which we gave up a very beneficial Woollen Trade, in 1698; that we might not in the least interfere with the Staple Manufacture of *Great-Britain*. But that every thing relative to this very interesting subject, may be made as clear as possible to you. I have hereunto annexed the representation of the Trustees of the Linen and Hempen Manufactures, and also the Address of the Trustees in 1773, to his Excellency Lord *Harcourt*,—

And am &c. &c.

A LINEN DRAPER.

REPRESENTATION

OF THE

PROGRESS

OF THE

LINEN and HEMPEN Manufactures of
IRELAND,

And her Title to ENCOURAGEMENT and
PRECEDENCE in those MANUFACTURES.

THIS Kingdom has been possessed of an Export Trade in the Linen and Hempen Manufactures upwards of Two Hundred Years, as appears by Act of Parliament, and existing Records, and probably from a much earlier period. *Vide 1.*

THIS Country has been also possessed of an Export Trade, in the Woollen Manufacture for the same time, until restrained therein, for the following Considerations, in 1698. *Vide 2.*

THE first formal Overture to this Kingdom, for relinquishing the Woollen Trade (except in some lower Branches) and attaching it self to the Linen, that it might not interfere with the Trade of *England*, was made by Sir *William Temple*, in an Essay written at the request of Lord *Essex*, then Lord Lieutenant of *Ireland*, dated

dated *Dublin* 22d *July*, 1673, wherein he mentions the superior fitness of this Country for the *Linen Manufacture*, and the Advantages that would arise to both Kingdoms, from making this Island the seat of that *Fabrick*.
Vide 3.

HAD Sir *William Temple* consider'd the *Linen and Hempen Manufactures* as a Trade in the possession of *England*, or so well adapted to it as the *Woollen*; he could not have recommended to *Ireland* to relinquish the latter, and adopt the former, to the prejudice of the staple of *England*.

THIS Proposition was taken up by the Parliament of *England*, in 1698, with a *positive Promise*, on the Part of the King, Lords and Commons of *England*, to give all possible Encouragement to the *Linen and Hempen Manufactures* in *Ireland*, without any Restriction or Limitation whatever. *Vide* 4.

In the Speech from the Throne to the *Irish Parliament*, 27th *September* 1698. The Adoption of the *Linen and Hempen* in Preference to the *Woollen Manufacture*, is strongly recommended and enforced. *Vide* 5.

In Answer to this Speech, both Houses agreed that they would apply their Attention to the *Linen and Hempen Manufactures*, and in consequence passed a Law that Session, imposing a Tax on *Irish Woollen Manufactures*, exported, amounting to a prohibition (Frisers excepted) the exportation of which hath been since prohibited. *Vide* 6.

THE Distress which *Ireland* suffered immediately by this Discouragement, and in effect Suppression of her *Woollen Trade*, the Desertion of her *Woollen Manufacturers*, and the fatal Consequences, which she experienced therefrom are notorious. *Vide* 7.

SUBSEQUENT to 1698. *Ireland* after a long Struggle, opposed by the established *Linen Trade* of *Germany*,
Holland

Holland and France, then in full possession of the *English* Market, and at an enormous Expence to the Public, made a considerable progress in the Linen and Hempen Manufactures, when the Hempen Manufacture received a fatal Check. 23 Geo. 2. by a Tax on Sail-Cloth made of *Irish* Hempen. *Vide* 8.

THE Linen Manufacture has since received a considerable Wound, by a Bounty granted on Cheques, &c. and should that Bounty be encreased to three half pence per Yard, it would be fatal in its Operation to the Linen Manufacture of *Ireland*, as it would give an Advantage of upwards of 30 per Cent, on Linen-Yarn to Manufacturers in *Britain* over Manufacturers in *Ireland*. *Vide* 9.

A bounty on Cottons would not only operate against the Linen Manufacture, but the Woollen Manufacture of *England* also.

THUS it appears that for want of Information, and by the Error of subsequent Parliaments, *Ireland* hath not received as much Encouragements in the Linen and Hempen Manufactures as was solemnly promised in 1698, by the King, Lords and Commons of *England*, and was purchased by valuable Consideration, at that Period on the part of *Ireland*, by detaching herself from the Woollen Manufacture, whilst she hath been still further restrained in the Woollen Manufacture than was even desired in 1698, having been deprived of the Export of Frize.

THE Bounties also granted in *Great-Britain*, on the Exportation of *British* and *Irish* Linens therefrom, are mistaken as to their Operation, being in Effect a Premium in Part on *British* Linens to the Disadvantage of the Linen Manufactures of *Ireland*, for the whole Bounty is received without Deduction on *British* Linens, whereas in respect of *Irish* Linens, they suffer the Deduction of Freight, Factorage, Risque, Interest, and other Contingencies. *Vide* 10.

THE Duties and Bounties stated in the 1st and 3d Propositions, in a Paper intitled, *Thoughts on the British Linen Manufacture*, would encourage an illicit Trade, as by that Paper the whole Duty payable on Foreign Linen, would amount to about 40 per Cent. and the general Bounty on Exportation of Linen about 12 per Cent. which put together would be 52 per Cent. in Favour of Smugglers to introduce foreign Linens, and pass them as home made Linens on Exportation.

It is agreed that a new Valuation of all foreign Linens ought to take place, and a Regulation to be ascertained of the Duties payable on the import of them, either *ad valorem*, or in such other Mode as to give a sufficient Advantage to the home Manufacture in the *British* Market, and also that such measures be taken, as if possible to remove the Discouragement on our Exports to *Spain, Portugal, &c.* it being notorious that our Linens pay 14 per Cent. on their Import into *Spain*, whilst the *French* pay only 4 per Cent. *Vide* 11.

It is obvious from the slow Progress of the Linen and Hempen Manufactures for many Years after the Revolution, that no Encouragements, can immediately establish a Manufacture, and it is as obvious that one imprudent Act may defeat the Progress of half a Century, as appears by the Operation of the Statutes 13 *Queen Eliz.* and 23 *Geo. 2.* against Sail-Cloth made of *Irish* Hemp.

IRELAND possesses Advantages for carrying on the Linen and Hempen Manufactures, superior to any Part of the *British* Dominions, in Cheapness of Labour, Fuel, Convenience of Rivers for Mills, and Bleachyards, and the Fitness of the Soil for raising Hemp and Flax.

As the Laws of *Britain* are now constituted, *Ireland* has been confined to the Linen Manufacture, and circumscribed even in that, how far the first is agreeable

to Policy, or the latter to Compact is submitted. But it seems to be universally agreed, that it would be more for the Interest of *Great-Britain* to promote and encourage, as far as possible, the Linen Trade of *Ireland*, rather than in any shape whatsoever to circumscribe or restrain it.

UPON the whole we are of Opinion that it would be more advantageous to *Great-Britain* and to *Ireland*, that no foreign Linen imported into *Great-Britain*, should be intitled to any Drawback whatsoever on Exportation, and we also apprehend, the levying any Duties or Tax, upon the Exportation of Cheques, stained-Linens, or Sail-Cloth from *Ireland*, is so far an Infringement of that general Encouragement promised to us, on our relinquishing the Woollen Trade.—We therefore most earnestly desire that if it shall be thought proper by the *British* Parliament, to give any Bounties whatsoever, in Favour of the *British* Manufacturer of Linen, of any sort, such Bounty may be fully extended to *Ireland*, and so far encreased as to put the *Irish* Manufacturer on a Par with the *British* Manufacturer, which is not now the Case, as the *Irish* Manufacturer, on account of Distance, Freight, Factorage, and other Expences, cannot bring his Goods to Market on equal Terms with the *British* Manufacturer.

By Order of the TRUSTEES of the

Linen-Manufacture of *Ireland*.

BROCKHILL, NEWBURGH, Sec.

LINEN-OFFICE, *Dublin Castle*,

28th May, 1771.

No.

No. 1. In 1542, the 33 *Hen. 8.* Linen, and Linen and Woollen Yarn, were enumerated among the most considerable Branches of Trade possessed by the Natives of *Ireland*, in an Act made against Grey Merchants forestalling.

The 11th *Queen Elizabeth*, the same Act was revived, and a further Law made against watering Hemp or Flax, &c. in Rivers.

The 13th of *Eliz.* All Persons were prohibited from exporting Wool, Flax, Linen, and Woollen Yarn, except Merchants residing in Cities and Boroughs; and by a further Act the same Year, a Penalty of 12*d.* per Pound was imposed on all Flax or Linen Yarn exported, and 8*d.* more for the use of the Town exported from. In this last Act it is recited, that the Merchants of *Ireland*, had been Exporters of those Articles in Trade upwards of One Hundred Years, preceeding that period; and by many subsequent Acts and Proclamations, during the Reigns of *Charles* the I. and II. those Manufactures were particularly attended to.

Hence it is obvious that Hemp, Flax, Linen, and Woollen Yarn, were native Commodities produced in such Abundance, as to supply the Spinners and Manufacture, and spare considerable Quantities to export at that early Period.

From the best Estimation that can be made: The Quantity of Flax imported into *Ireland* in 1722, being about 108 Tuns, was not more than a 26th part of the Quantity used in the Linen Manufacture, for home Consumption and Exportation at that time, and in Six-Years, ending the 25th *March*, 1770. The Medium Quantity of Flax imported yearly, was about 460 Tuns which compared with the Increase of the Manufacture, for home Consumption and Exportation, was not more than a thirtieth part of the Flax used during those six Years,

Years, and there is a Probability of the Quantity of Material imported, being totally supplied for the future, by the particular Attention of the Linen Board to the Cultivation of Flax, as an addition of about 1400 Acres of Ground, Plantation Measure, properly tilled for Flax, will produce a Quantity equal to the present Deficiency.

No. 2. By the Severity of the Penalties on the Exportation of Flax and Linen Yarn, the 13th *Eliz.* The Inhabitants being used only to make Linens 14 Inches broad, a Manufacture peculiar to *Ireland*, and not in demand for Exportation, were compelled to detach themselves, from that Branch of Trade, and pursue the Woollen, in which they had made so considerable a Progress before 1673, as to induce the Manufacturers of *England* to fear they might become Rivals in their Staple Trade of Woollen.

No. 3. Sir *William Temple* speaking of the Woollen and Linen Manufactures of *Ireland*, expresses himself thus: "The Improvement of this (the Wool of *Ireland*) Commodity by Manufactories in this Kingdom, would give so great a Damp to the Trade (of *England*, of which Cloths, Stuffs, and Stockings made so mighty a Part) that it seems not fit to be encouraged here, at least no farther than such a Quantity of one or two Summer Stuffs, *Irish* Frize, and Cloth, from six Shillings to Fourteen, as may supply in some measure the ordinary Consumption of the Kingdom."

"The Soil produces Flax kindly and well, and fine two, answerable to the Care used in Choice of Seed, and Exercise of Husbandry."

"And this may certainly be advanced and improved into a great Manufacture of Linen, so as to beat down the Trade both of *France* and *Holland*, and draw much of the Money which goes from *England*, to those Parts upon this Occasion, into the Hands of his Majesty's

“ Majesty’s Subjects of *Ireland*, without crossing any
 “ Interest of Trade in *England*, for besides what has
 “ been said of Flax and Spinning, the Soil and Climate
 “ are proper for whitening, both by the frequency of
 “ Brooks, and also of Winds in the Country.”—And
 further observes.

“ But after all these or such like Provisions, there are
 “ but two things which can make any extraordinary Ad-
 “ vance in this Branch of Trade, and those are ; First
 “ an encrease of People in the Country to such a Degree,
 “ as may make things necessary to Life dear, and there-
 “ by force general Industry from each Member of a Fa-
 “ mily, (Women as well as Men) and in as many Sorts,
 “ as they can well turn to ; which among others, may
 “ in time, come to turn the Vein this way. The Se-
 “ cond is a particular Application in the Government,
 “ either by some Governor on his own private Account.
 “ (As he instances in the Earl of *Stafford*’s Design) or else
 “ by a considerable Sum of Money being laid aside, ei-
 “ ther out of his Majesty’s present Revenue, or some fu-
 “ ture Subsidy to be granted for this Occasion, and this
 “ either to be employed in setting up some great Linen
 “ Manufacture, in some certain Place, and to be ma-
 “ naged by some certain Hands, both for making, all
 “ Sorts of fine Cloths, &c. of those for Sails, too, the Benefit
 “ or Loss of such a Trade, accruing to the Government,
 “ until it comes to take root in the Nation ; or else if
 “ this seems too great an undertaking for the humour of
 “ our Age, then such a sum of Money to be ready in
 “ Hands, appointed by the Government, for taking off
 “ at common moderate Prices, all such Pieces of Cloth,

“ as
 “ By the best Calculation that could be made of the Inhabitants
 in 1695, when there was a Poll Tax, they were about One Million,
 and at this present time, they are estimated about Two Millions and
 a half.

“as shall be brought in by any Persons at certain Times,
 “to the chief Town of each County: And all such
 “Pieces of Cloth as are fit for Sails, to be carried into
 “the Stores of the Navy; all that are fit for the use of
 “the Army, to be given the Soldiers (as Cloaths are) in
 “part of their Pay; and all finer Pieces to be sold, and
 “the Money still applied to the Increase or constant
 “Supply of the main Stock.”

No. 4.

Die Jovis 9. Junij. 1698.

The Earl of *Stanford* reported from the Lords Com-
 mittees (appointed to draw an Address to be presented
 to his Majesty, relating to the Woollen Manufacture in
Ireland) the following Address, (*viz.*)

WE the Lords Spiritual and Temporal in Parlia-
 ment Assembled. Do humbly represent unto
 your Majesty, that the growing Manufacture of Cloth
 in *Ireland*, both by the Cheapness of all Sorts of Necessa-
 ries for Life, and Goodness of Materials for making of all
 manner of Cloth, doth invite your Subjects of *England*,
 with their Families and Servants to leave their habita-
 tions to settle there, to the Increase of the Woollen Ma-
 nufacture in *Ireland*, which makes your loyal Subjects
 in this Kingdom very apprehensive that the further
 Growth of it may greatly prejudice the said Manufac-
 ture here; by which the Trade of this Nation and the
 Value of Lands, will very much decrease, and the Num-
 bers of your People be much lessened here; Wherefore,
 We do most humbly beseech your most Sacred Majesty,
 that your Majesty would be pleased, in the most Publick
 and effectual Way, that may be, to declare to all your
 Subjects of *Ireland*: That the Growth and Increase of
 the

the Woollen Manufacture there, hath long, and will ever be looked upon with great Jealousie, by all your Subjects of this Kingdom: And if not timely remedied may occasion very strict Laws, totally to prohibit and suppress the same, and on the other hand, if they turn their Industry and Skill, to the settling and improving the Linen Manufacture, for which generally the Lands of that Kingdom are very proper, they shall receive, all Countenance, Favour and Protection from your Royal Influence, for the Incouragement and promoting of the said Linen Manufacture, to all the Advantage and Profit, that Kingdom can be capable of.

To which the House Agreed.

It is Ordered, by the Lords Spiritual and Temporal in Parliament Assembled. That the Lords with white Staves doe humbly attend his Majesty with the Address of this House, concerning the Woollen Manufacture in Ireland.

Die Veneris 10. Junij 1698.

The Lord Steward reported his Majesty's Answer to the Address, to this Effect. (*viz.*)

THAT his Majesty will take Care to doe what their Lordships have desired.

ASHLEY COWPER,
Clerk Parliamentor.

Jovis 30 Die Junij 1698, Domino. Gulielmi 3 iii.
Most Gracious Sovereign,

WE your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal Subjects, the Commons in Parliament Assembled, being very sensible that the Wealth and Power of this Kingdom do, in a great Measure, depend on the preserving the Woollen Manufacture, as much as possible entire to this Realm, think it becomes us, like our Ancestors, to be

be jealous of the Establishment and Increase thereof elsewhere; and to use our utmost Endeavours to prevent it.

And therefore, we cannot without Trouble observe, that *Ireland*, is dependant on, and protected by *England*, in the Enjoyment of all they have, and which is so proper for the Linen Manufacture, the Establishment and Growth of which there, would be so enriching to themselves, and so profitable to *England*; should, of late, apply itself to the Woollen Manufacture, to the great Prejudice of the Trade of this Kingdom; and so unwillingly promote the Linen Trade, which would benefit both them and us.

The Consequence whereof, will necessitate your Parliament of *England* to interpose, to prevent the Mischief that threatens us, unless your Majesty, by your Authority, and great Wisdom, shall find means to secure the Trade of *England*, by making your subjects of *Ireland*, to pursue the joint Interest of both Kingdoms.

And we do most humbly implore your Majesty's Protection and Favour in this Matter; and that you will make it your Royal Care, and enjoin all those you employ in *Ireland*, to make it their Care, and use their utmost Diligence, to hinder the Exportation of Wool from *Ireland*, except to be imported hither, and for the discouraging the Woollen Manufactures, and encouraging the Linen Manufactures in *Ireland*; to which we shall always be ready to give our utmost Assistance.

Resolved, That the said Address be presented to his Majesty by the whole House.

W
The Commons in Parliament Assembled, being
very humble that the Welsh and Power of the King
depend on the preserving
of the Woollen Manufacture, as much as possible
the Welsh think it better to keep the
Sabbath

His Majesty's Answer.

GENTLEMEN,
I Shall do all in me lies to discourage the Woollen Manufacture in *Ireland*, and to encourage the Linen Manufacture there; and to promote the Trade of *England*.

No. 5.

Thursday 27th September 1698.

Part of the Lords Justices Speech.

AMONGST these Bills there is one for the Encouragement of the Linen and Hempen Manufactures; at our first Meeting, we recommended to you that matter, and we have now endeavoured to render that Bill practicable and useful for that effect; and as such we now recommend it to you. The settlement of this Manufacture will contribute much to people the Country, and will be found much more advantageous to this Kingdom, than the Woollen Manufacture which being the settled staple Trade of *England*, from whence all foreign Markets are supplied, can never be encouraged here for that purpose, whereas the Linen and Hempen Manufactures will not only be encouraged, as consistent with the Trade of *England*, but will render the Trade of this Kingdom both useful and necessary to *England*.

No. 6.

The Commons of *IRELAND* returned the following Answer to the Speech from the Throne.

“ **W**E pray leave to assure your Excellencies that we shall heartily endeavour to establish a Linen and Hempen Manufacture here, and to render the same useful to *England*, as well as advantageous

C

“ to

“ to this Kingdom, and that we hope to find such a
 “ Temperament in respect to the Woollen Trade here ;
 “ that the same may not be injurious to *England*.—

And they passed a Law that Session commencing 25th *March*, 1699, laying 4s. additional Duty on every 20s. value of Broad-Cloth exported out of *Ireland*, and 2s. on every 20s. value of Serges, Baize, Kerseys, Stuffs, or any other Sort of new Drapery made of Wool or mixed with Wool, (Frizes only excepted) which was in effect a Prohibition. And the same Session a Law was passed in *England*, which restrained *Ireland* from exporting those Woollen Manufactures, including Frize to any other Parts except to *England* and *Wales*.

No. 7. The Inhabitants of *Ireland* were not at this Time in Number much above One Million. And the Woollen Manufacture the only Trade on which the greater Part depended for Employment and Support. And many wealthy Manufacturers carrying with them, their Families, and Assistants, quitted the Kingdom.

No. 8. The Trustees of the Linen Board expended near half a Million of Money in different Schemes, to extend and promote the Linen and Hempen Manufactures before the Year 1750, exclusive of the Pensions and large Sums paid to Foreigners who were invited into the Kingdom, to instruct the Inhabitants, in the various Branches thereof, and it is with good Reason believed that the Nobility, Gentry, and private Adventurers, expended as much larger Sum, in order to introduce and establish those Manufactures in the Country, and at this time they had made a considerable Progress in the Linen Manufacture, and were so successful in raising Hemp in *Ireland*, as to export considerable Quantities of Duck or Sail-Cloth yearly, previous to the duty imposed in *Britain*, of 2d. per Yard, on all Sail-Cloth of the value of 10d. and under 14d. and 4d. per Yard on all Sail-Cloth of

of the value of 14*d.* per Yard, or upwards, that had received the Bounty or Encouragement in *Ireland*, granted on Sail-Cloth made of *Irish* Hemp, by which means a stop was put to the further cultivation of Hemp in *Ireland*, and the Sail-Cloth Manufacture in a great measure restored to the *Russians*, *Dutch* and *Germans*, the Imports of Foreign, Duck or Sail-Cloth into *England* (exclusive of *Scotland*) being as follows, at those following Periods: In the Year ending *Christmas*, 1730, 507,764 Yards. In the Year ending *Christmas*, 1751, when this Tax in *England* took place, 521,741 Yards, and in the Year ending *Christmas* 1770, 537,008 Yards. Thus it is obvious whilst *Ireland* hath been deprived of the Benefit proposed to her by the Sail-Cloth Manufacture, that Foreign Countries have reaped the Advantage, by an increasing Trade, that might have been at this day in a great measure supplied from *Ireland*.

No. 9. Chequer'd, Striped, Printed, Painted, Stained, or dyed Linens of the Manufacture of *Ireland*, are not allowed to be imported into *Britain*, although there is no Reservation tending thereto in the Addresses of the Lords, and Commons of *England*, or in the King's Answers, or in the Proposition by the Speech from the Throne, to the *Irish* Parliament in 1698.

Those Manufactures answer the Purposes of the lower Class of working People in many respects, better than plain Linen, such as Sailors, Labourers, and various Uses for Womens Ware; and have been gaining ground on the plain Linen Manufactures, several Years for home Consumption and Exportations, as appears by the Exports from *England* and *Scotland*.

Cheques and striped Linens, are generally made about one fifth Part thinner or lighter in the Fabrick, than plain Linens, and such as are exported, are on a medium 26 to 27 Inches Wide, and generally made of Yarn, not exceeding

exceeding 2 dozen, or about 10d. to 11d. value in the Pound, great Part of which is imported into *Britain* from *Ireland*, and as one Pound of Yarn will on a medium make upwards of three Yards of those Cheques, or striped Goods, a Bounty of One Half-penny per Yard given thereon, is a Premium of upwards of three Half-pence on the Pound of Yarn, value 10d. or 11d. in Favour of a Manufacturer in *Britain* over a Manufacturer in *Ireland*, from which Bounty the *Irish* Cheques, Striped, or Painted Linens, &c. are totally excluded, their Importation into *Britain* being prohibited.

If this Bounty is continued, it is obvious it will advance the Yarn, on the Manufacturers of *Ireland* 15 per Cent. and if increased to three Half-pence per Yard, it would enable the Manufacturers of *Britain* to substitute Cheques and Striped Linens, &c. in Place of plain Linens throughout the *British* Plantations, and in many other Markets, and at the same time advance *Irish* Linen-Yarn so much in Price as to prevent the *Irish* Manufacturers, from sending their low priced plain Linens to Market, on such reasonable Terms as to vie with the Foreign Manufactures and thereby in a few Years destroy the Linen Manufacture of *Ireland*.

A Bounty on Cottons, of three Half-pence per Yard, as proposed in *Thoughts on the Linen Manufacture of Great-Britain*, would operate in the same Manner, as the Bounty on Cheques, &c. in advancing the Price of *Irish* Linen-Yarn, and would in effect, increase their Consumption and make them a Substitute in the *British* Plantations and elsewhere, in the Place of light Manufactures of Wool, and also all low priced Linens.

No. 10. In the Year ending *Christmas* 1770. The Bounties paid on *British* Linen exported from *England*, were £ 20,058. 3s. 1d. and on *Irish* Linen £ 16,921 15s. 3d. in both for Bounties £ 36979 18s. 4d. on Plain Linen

Linen; and when the *Scotch* Bounties paid for that Year are added thereto, they will appear to nearly counter-balance the Drawback allowed the same Year on Foreign Linens exported out of *Great-Britain*, which is £64319 19s. Those Bounties were at first granted to put *British* and *Irish* Linens, on a *Par* with Foreign Linens, in the Plantations, rather than take off the Drawbacks, until there was a Prospect of *Britain* and *Ireland* supplying those Markets, fully with their own Linen Manufactures. However those Arguments might have prevailed with the *British* Legislature near Thirty Years ago, on the first Application for those Bounties, when the Colonists were not so well enabled, from their Trade, to advance the Price of their Linens. The present State of the Linen and Hempen Manufacture of *Ireland*, requires immediate Protection and Aid, and abstracted from the Sum Government will save by it, of upwards of £120000. Yearly, as the Duties now stand, no Scheme can be devised so effectual and easy as to drop all Bounties on *British* and *Irish* Linens, to take off the Drawbacks on Foreign Linens exported from *Britain*, and grant such further Duties, on a proper Inspection of the several Species of Foreign Linens Imported into *Britain* as may preserve to the home Manufactures an Advantage in the *British* Markets.

The Bounty renewed in 1756, and Subsidy of 1759, have not been the sole Cause that produced the Effect supposed in *Thoughts*, &c. in lowering between 1756 and 1765, the Importation of Foreign Linens near Seven Millions of Yards yearly, as the Imports of Foreign Linens were only about £25000000 Yards, in 1752 and 1754, and the Calamities and Depopulation occasioned in *Germany* and *Russia*, by the late War, had the greatest Share in advancing their Linens, and lessening the Quantities imported in the Years preceding 1765, into *Britain*; as will fully appear by the Imports of Foreign Linens increasing

in

1769, and something more effectual is still necessary to be done to encourage the home Manufacture, and prevent an Illicit Trade.

No. 11. The Market of *Spain*, being opened to *British* Subjects, on the same Terms, as it is to *France*, would be a great Acquisition to the Linen, and Cotton Manufacturers of *Britain* and *Ireland*: The Consumption of Old *Spain* and her Dominions it is believed, being as considerable as the Consumption of the *British* Dominions, and there are many Branches in the Manufacture, such as the *Britannias* that could be made to great Perfection in *Ireland*, and finished in Bleaching, superior to any sent from *France*.

Reported, November 15, 1773.

To his Excellency Simon Earl Harcourt,

Lord Lieutenant-General,

And General Governor of Ireland.

The Humble Address of the Trustees of the Linen
and Hempen Manufactures of Ireland.

May it Please your Excellency,

WE His Majesties most dutiful and loyal Subjects--
The Trustees of the Linen and Hempen Manufactures of *Ireland*, beg leave as Guardians of those Manufactures, to represent to your Excellency, the distressed

trified State of our Staple Manufactures, which at this time obliges us, in a peculiar manner, to resort to your Excellency's Patronage and Protection.

We beg leave to lay before your Excellency, that in the Year 1696, the *English* Legislature with an intent to induce the Inhabitants of this Kingdom, to adopt the Linen and Hempen Manufactures. Enacted, that the Natives of *Ireland*, might import into *England* directly, any sort of Hemp or Flax and all the production thereof, as Thread, Yarn or Linen of the Growth and Manufacture of *Ireland*, free from all manner of Customs, Duties and Impositions whatsoever.

And that both Houses of Parliament of *England*, by Addresses to his late Majesty King *William* the *Third*, promised to this Kingdom; if the Inhabitants thereof wou'd relinquish the Woollen and adopt the Linen Manufacture, they should receive all Countenance, Favour and Protection, for the encouragement and promoting of the said Manufacture, to all the advantage and profit which this Kingdom can be capable of, copies of which addresses, and of His Majesty's Gracious answer thereto, and of the Speech of the then Lords Justices from the Throne, on the 27th Day of *September* 1698, to both Houses of Parliament of this Kingdom, and of the address of the Commons of *Ireland* thereto, we humbly lay before your Excellency.

And we beg leave to inform your Excellency that in Consequence thereof, an Act was passed that Session in this Kingdom, laying Four Shillings additional duty on every Twenty Shillings value of Broad Cloth exported out of this Kingdom, of the Manufacture of the same, and Two Shillings on every Twenty Shillings value of Serges, Bays, Kerfies, Prepetuanus Stuffs, or any other sort of new Drapery made of Wool or mixed with Wool which was in Effect a Prohibition.

And

And we also lay before your Excellency a Copy of the humble Representation of the Trustees of the Linen Manufacture of *Ireland*, in behalf of the Protestants of that Kingdom concerned in that Manufacture to His late Majesty King *George the First* in the Year, 1719.

And we humbly Represent to your Excellency the hardship this Kingdom labours under, by constructions given to certain Acts of Parliament, passed in *Great-Britain*, in the Reign of Her late Majesty Queen *Ann*, whereby this Kingdom is prevented from sending into *Great-Britain*, Chequer'd, Striped, Printed, Painted, Stain'd or dyed Linens, contrary as we humbly apprehend to the Intent of the *British* Legislature, when the said Laws were passed, as we cannot suppose that it was intended to include this Kingdom by the Words *foreign parts*, which are the only words in the said Acts that by any Construction can be understood to comprehend *Ireland*, and contrary to the Compact made with this Kingdom on Relinquishing it's former Staple Woollen Manufacture in favour of *Great-Britain*, on being assured that we should receive *all the advantage and profit which this Kingdom can be capable of from the Linen and Hempen Manufactures*.

And we humbly represent to your Excellency that the Bounties granted on the Exportation of Linens, from *Great-Britain*, and the duty laid on *Irish* Sail Cloth, and the inequality of the Duties laid on the Import of foreign Linens into *Great-Britain*, materially affect our Staple Manufactures and are the Principle Cause of the decline of said Manufactures.

T H E E N D